CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 14, No. 6 TORONTO, FEBRUARY 6, 1949 $2.00 Per Annum

'48 Bldg. Bill Near $5 Million

Dom'n Theatre Industry Spent $20 Million In Three Years

Theatre construction and alteration contracts awarded during 1948 numbered 108 and had a total value of $4,814,500. This amount represents a considerable decline, for in 1947 it was $7,823,200 for 23 contracts and in 1946 the value of 131 contracts was $8,921,500. The decline between the 1946 and 1947 figure was placed at 38.4 per cent. The theatre amount was part of the Canadian total of $954 million in contracts, a figure 89.2 per cent over that of 1947.

These figures are from the January, 1949, issue of Building Reporter, edited by J. R. Oldham for MacLean Building Reports Limited, a division of Hugh C. MacLean Publications Limited, Toronto.

There are several interesting

(Continued on Page 3)

Royal Com'ission Called TV Stall

Television, being controlled by a government agency in Canada, will come under the scrutiny of the Royal Commission, which was called for in the Speech from the Throne, read at the opening of Parliament by Viscount Alexander, the Governor-General. Ap-

(Continued on Page 4)

Ch. Reagan Quits Paramount

The resignation of Charles M. Reagan as a director of Paramount Pictures, Inc., and as vice-president in charge of distribution was announced in New York last week. No reasons for Reagan's action was mentioned in the announcement.

Reagan entered the motion picture industry in 1920 as a salesman for Paramount in Cincinnati. He was appointed a director and v-p in 1944.

Barney Balaban, president, stated that he had accepted the resignation "with the deepest regret."

Cast In Fox Film

Fred MacMurray and Maureen O'Hara will star in 20th Century-Fox' "Father Was a Full Back."

Lawson Back As Pioneers' Prez

The Honorable J. Earl Lawson was re-elected president of the Canadian Picture Pioneers at the recent annual meeting held in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. Morris Stein is the vice-president, succeeding Ben Cronk, and Charles Mavety is once again sec-

(Continued on Page 4)

3 Theatres Open, More In Work

Three new theatres opened in Canada recently to continue the sudden surge in industry construction, which for the latter months of 1948 had fallen off considerably from the 1947 and early 1948 level. In addition two theatres got under way and four

(Continued on Page 8)

Patrons, Critics Pix Tastes Differ

The judgment of mass audiences of motion pictures as against that of professional critics was upheld by Professor William E. Henry of the Committee of Human Development, University of Chicago, in an address before the East Coast

(Continued on Page 8)

Children's Pix Libr'y On Enduring Basis

The Children's Film Library, which has been studied for some time by representatives of the film industry and women's organizations, will be put on a permanent basis, it was decided by the directors of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association at a recent meeting in Toronto.

While in its infancy in Canada, the Library has been functioning in the USA since 1946 as a project of the Motion Picture Association of America. In that country it has brought the industry public acknowledgment of its interest in juvenile welfare.

(Continued on Page 8)

Candy Bar Built

Famous Payers 719-seat Roxy Theatre in Barrie, Ontario, has opened its new $3,000 candy bar and lunch counter.

Ontario Indies Resist Capac's Increase

Objection to the proposed scale of music royalties for Canadian motion picture theatres in 1949 has been made by the Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors Association of Ontario and a brief is being prepared for submission to the Copyright Appeal Board by H. L. Romberg, solicitor for the body. The Board recently reserved decision on the scale submitted at its annual Ottawa meeting by the Composers, Authors and Publishers Association of Canada.

The scale submitted by Capac was one which a committee representing seven provincial exhi-

(Continued on Page 3)

DIAMOND, BLACK TO INTERNAT'L

Morris Diamond, formerly Winnipeg branch manager for SRO, has been appointed Calgary branch manager for International Film Distributors, it was announced from Vancouver by David Griesdorf, general manager. He succeeds Vernon Dixon, who resigned.

At the same time Griesdorf made public the news that Cecil Black, formerly head of SRO for Calgary and Vancouver, replaces Willard Adamson as IFD manager in the latter branch. Adamson, for reasons of health, moves to the position of office manager.

Doug Isman, Vancouver booker, takes over the poster department.

International Film Distributors releases Hollywood Eagle Lion pictures in Canada, as well as important British product.

Its head offices are in the Prince George Hotel, Toronto, but it will move to Bloor Street in May.

Boasberg In Canada

Charles Boasberg, RKO division manager, has held several Depinet Drive meetings recently in exchange centres in Canada.

JUST COMPLETED FIVE BIG WEEKS — FIRST RUN, TORONTO

'GHOSTS OF BERKELEY SQUARE'

A PATHE (British) PICTURE From INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS Limited

ROARING, BRAWLING BOOM TOWN THRILLS!

DUKE MASSEY
Ruthless boss of an empire built on oil and blood!
in
"STRIKE IT RICH"

Wildest Gamble on Earth!

STRIKE IT RICH

Roaring, brawling story of the wildcat oil frontier!

JULIE BRADY
victim of man's lust for black gold!...
in
"STRIKE IT RICH"

ALLIED ARTISTS PRODUCTIONS presents

"STRIKE IT RICH"

A JACK WRATHER PRODUCTION

starring

ROD CAMERON · BONITA GRANVILLE · DON CASTLE

with **STUART ERWIN** · Lloyd Corrigan · Ellen Corby

Produced by Jack Wrather · Directed by Lesley Selander · Written by Francis Rosenwald

From **MONOGRAM** *Now!*

Ontario Indies Vs. Capac Agreement

(Continued from Page 1)

bitors' association had approved, as well as Famous Players, Odeon Theatres and Twentieth Century Theatres. If accepted by the Copyright Appeal Board as fair, it would be in effect for three years from January 1st, 1949.

The position of the Ontario Indie body is that it did not participate in the negotiations between Capac and the theatre committee headed by N. A. Taylor. Nor does it feel that Capac is entitled to the higher tariff provided for in the agreement.

"If we are to spend our money, we should at least be consulted," stated Ben Freedman, head of the Association.

He contended that Capac's revenue had been increased considerably by the several hundred theatres opened in Canada since the lifting of restrictions. These had added thousands of seats on which its rates applied and the greater yield, he said, should satisfy Capac.

Freedman said that the newcomer to the exhibition field who erected a theatre found that Capac made necessary the payment of money which had not entered into his calculations. "He doesn't know that there is such a thing as music royalties until he is ready to open," he said. "Rather than get into court action he pays."

Such practices as Capac carried on here had recently been declared illegal in the USA, Freedman stated. "Several state courts have supported the claims of exhibitors against Ascap, the American version of our Capac, and I'm not so sure that Capac is on solid ground here."

WB Signs Vidor

King Vidor, one of the ace directors in the motion picture industry, has been signed by Jack L. Warner, executive producer, to a term contract as a Warner Bros. director.

Fisher Challenges Newman Statement

"The statement by A. H. Newman of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, last week to the effect that neither the Department nor the Bank of Canada was either interested in or considering means of increasing the earnings of British films in Canada, is in flat contradiction to the stated general policy of both as repeatedly made public," commented Frank H. Fisher, general manager of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada Limited.

'48 Construction Cost Almost $5 Million

(Continued from Page 1)

aspects of these figures. One is that the total amount of the contracts does not apply to theatres proper, for many of the awards are for new theatres joined with recreation centres, apartments and offices. Although total of all Canadian awards was up 89.2 per cent over 1947, that part of the total made up of theatre activity declined 38.4 per cent. This means that, with 362 theatres finished, in construction, projected and modernized in three years, the field is well filled.

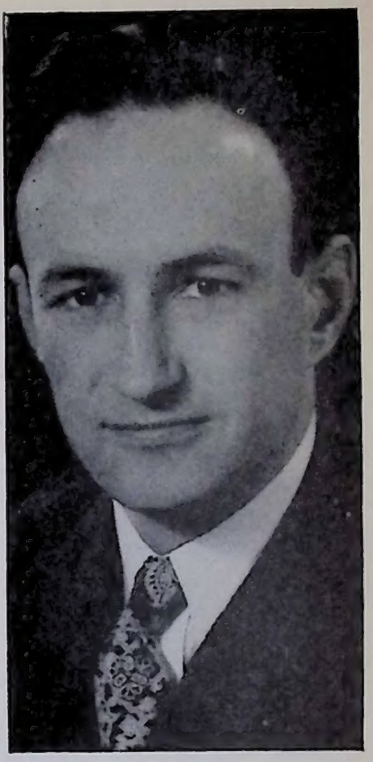
There were five awards for all Canada during December, 1948, and these amounted to $145,600. During 1948 the total value of 11 construction and alteration awards in Toronto and suburbs was $375,000, while in Montreal 11 awards reached $515,700. During December, 1948, there were no theatre awards in Toronto and Montreal.

The number of eastern contracts in 1948 was 80 and these amounted to $3,191,500, while 28 western contracts totalled $1,623,000.

According to records of Film Weekly, since restrictions were lifted 218 theatres have been opened, 93 are under construction and 114 are projected, a total of 425. The figure for theatres opened may not indicate exactly the number added to the exhibition field, for in some instances the owners of old houses have erected new ones on a different location and closed the other. Also the 114 projected theatres may not all become realities.

The following table provides information on theatres contracts awarded:

	1948		1947		1946	
Province	No.	$ Value	No.	$ Value	No.	$ Value
Maritimes	8	538,600	11	831,000	11	580,000
Quebec	28	1,328,200	41	3,195,700	49	3,202,700
Ontario	44	1,324,700	50	3,258,000	52	3,975,600
Manitoba	7	239,000	4	26,500	2	40,000
Saskatchewan	5	65,000	6	175,000	7	229,000
Alberta	5	127,000	7	102,000	1	30,000
British Columbia	11	1,192,000	4	235,000	9	864,200
GRAND TOTAL	108	4,814,500	123	7,823,200	131	8,921,500



FRED C. DILLON

New executive director of the Canadian Motion Picture Distributors Association. He will assume office on March 1st. The executive headquarters of the association are in Toronto.

A former newspaperman, Dillon served with the Canadian Army in World War II. After his discharge in 1945 he was appointed private secretary to Col. David A. Croll, KC, MP, a position which he held for two and a half years. For the past year he has directed his own public relations firm, Fred C. Dillon & Associates, in Ottawa.

'Musketeers' Record In Hamilton, Ont.

MGM's Technicolor feature, "The Three Musketeers," is expected to break the overall record of the Palace, Hamilton, Manager Bob Maynard wrote to the Spectator of that city. In its first week it broke the daily record for the first three days, then hung up a record Saturday.

The film features Gene Kelly, Van Heflin, Lana Turner and June Allyson.

Famous Players To Move BC Offices

Selected tenders are being received by Famous Players for alterations to the Strand Theatre Building in Vancouver, where the new British Columbia headquarters of the company will eventually be located.

The present offices are in the Vancouver Block, 763 Granville.

Chaplin And Pickford Exchange Options

Mary Pickford and Charles Chaplin, equal owners of United Artists, have exchanged options through which either may become sole owner of the company within three months. The arrangement, announced to UA directors at a recent meeting in New York, is not believed to be binding on either one and if the options are not lifted the present setup will probably continue.

The agreement satisfies a stipulation in the company's by-laws that in the event of a contemplated sale the partners must first offer their holdings to each other.

There has been dissension among the owners of UA for over ten years and rumors have circulated that Chaplin has wanted to sell his interest for some time. He is reported asking $3,000,000 for his stock.

Film Weekly

Vol. 14, No. 6 Feb. 9, 1949

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications — The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada

Entered as Second Class Matter.

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year.

Lawson Back As Pioneers' Prez

(Continued from Page 1)

retary. Appointed treasurer and solicitor again respectively were George Beeston and David Ongley, who are not directors.

Beside Lawson, Stein and Mavety, the other directors elected are Oscar Hanson, Clare Appel, Maurice Doyle, William Reeves, Sam Sternberg, Ben Freedman, Jack Arthur and William Redpath.

The national officers were elected during the one-day session which concluded with a dinner and two-hour vaudeville show.

A delegation from the Quebec branch was present, this being comprised of William Singleton and Art Larante, Montreal, and George Champagne, Shawinigan Falls.

Chief subject of the meeting was the expansion of the benevolent fund.

Those who became members and who, with some exceptions, were initiated at the meeting, were Rex Shale, Oliver Stewart, Irving Field, Peter Ward, Douglas Cameron, Milford Elliott, Cliff Yonson, William Forman, William Rossborough, James H. Coleman, Louis Schierholtz, Fred Saunders, Bertram Bach, Harold Kay, Isser Singerman, William King, Bertram Cross, John Kerrin, Bert Stuart, Eddie Goldsmith, Ross Jewell, Robert E. Smith, Tom Hoad, Stewart Parmenter, E. T. Wykes, Joe Marks and Charles Hallatt.

Bergman Signs Deal

Ingrid Bergman has signed a deal with Roberto Rossellini, Italian producer, to go to Italy to appear in a film based on one of his own screenplays.

ROYAL SOUND MASTER
SOUND EQUIPMENT
The Golden Voice of the Silver Screen
Built for Today's Modern Theatre To Meet the Demands of Today's Progressive Exhibitor
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
Write - Wire - Telephone
PERKINS ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED
877 VICTORIA STREET TORONTO
2027 BLEURY STREET MONTREAL

ECHOES and REFLECTIONS

Tired of TV 'Wait and See' Policy

(From the Toronto Evening Telegram)

Television is commencing to hit its stride in the United States, where there are 54 stations now in operation broadcasting scenes from a variety of public events. Construction is proceeding on 69 additional stations and 312 applications for permits to erect stations are pending with the federal licensing authority. American manufacturers expect to produce two million video sets this year and they predict that by 1952 a trans-continental television system will be in operation

Meanwhile the development of television in this country is delayed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which has recommended the indefinite deferment of licenses to six companies which have applied for permission to operate television stations. The CBC is anxious to get into television but it is without funds to provide its own television service, and the Cabinet is said to be divided on advancing public money. Chairman Davidson Dunton has said that further study is necessary before the CBC does anything about television. However, he has hazarded a guess that television on the air from Toronto and Montreal may be possible in two or three years and he has said the government may charge a fee of $10 for each receiving set.

Canadians are not going to wait for the CBC to give them television in their homes. They are buying receiving sets and tuning them to the American television stations operating in Buffalo, Rochester and other cities on the border. They are getting fair results. But they are getting American programs, viewing important United States events. They apparently must wait on the pleasure of the CBC before they have an opportunity to see by television what is going on in their own country. One of the arguments advanced in favor of a publicly-owned radio system in this country was that it would give the public Canadian programs and encourage Canadian talent. That argument is of equal force when applied to television within Canada.

The Canadian people will not be satisfied with the CBC attitude of "wait and see." They are looking for a definite policy that will give the public Canadian television. Policy-making on this important subject is the responsibility of Parliament but the MPs are entitled to have the advice of the CBC. The board of governors of the corporation will soon have to make up their minds on what course of action they think ought to be followed.

Newsreels Record Parliament Opening

The opening of Parliament on January 26th was covered by the newsreels, marking the first time in our history that this has been done. The cameras caught scenes from the openings and proceedings of the Senate and the House of Commons. News that this would be allowed came from the Hon. Robert H. Winters, Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, who is also senior officer of the National Film Board.

Both the National Film Board and Associated Screen News recorded the memorable dignity and ceremony of the formal opening. Sound cameras were used, so that Canadians may hear as well as see the ceremonial of the Speech From the Throne and other formalities, including the traditional procession through the corridors and rapping on the door of the House of Commons. The cameras were installed in the galleries and powerful floodlights made possible a complete film record of the proceedings. The film footage was distributed to all newsreel companies in Canada and the United States and was also used by television stations in the UK and USA.

Columbia Sets Star For 'Anna Lucasta'

Bill Bishop, who has played eight leading roles in his two years with Columbia, has been given the male lead opposite Paulette Goddard in "Anna Lucasta."

Bishop will play the role of Rudolf, the country boy who marries Anna.

Royal Com'ission Called TV Stall

(Continued from Page 1)

pointment of the Commission may stall off the attention that television would have gotten if the Commons Radio Corporation had set a meeting date.

But the House of Commons may discuss television just the same, instead of waiting for the findings of the Commission.

On the second day of the session Opposition Leader George Drew told its members that television's progress in Canada had been hindered "by the arbitrary denial of the rights of those people who are prepared to provide television in this country without the Treasury being committed to the expenditure of one cent."

The Toronto Globe and Mail objected editorially to television being mixed up with libraries, museums and exhibitions as part of the Royal Commission's interest. This might prevent "the urgently needed Parliamentary discussion on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's heavy-footed performance in the matter of television."

But the Toronto Daily Star felt that taking the question of television out of the political arena "may prove to be a sound one for several reasons." A free hand for private enterprise, it said, might lead to its control by a few wealthy individuals, as well as cause a greater dependence on American networks.

Judging from the wording of the news in the Speech, the commercial and theatrical side of the Canadian motion picture industry will interest the Commission indirectly only. The National Film Board and provincial government film departments will be studied. But the Commission's opinions on television will no doubt affect the Canadian theatre and film industry.

Following is that part of the Speech which tells of the Commission's scope:

"It is the view of my ministers that there should be an examination of the activities of agencies of the Federal Government relating to radio, films, television, the encouragement of arts and sciences, research, the preservation of our national records, a national library, museums, exhibitions, relations in these fields with international organizations, and activities generally which are designed to enrich our national life, and to increase our own consciousness of our national heritage and knowledge of Canada abroad. For this purpose, the Government intends at an early date to establish a Royal Commission."

Fifth PR Subject 'Screen Actor'

The fifth subject in "The Movies and You," the All-Industry Film Series, will be the biggest little picture ever produced, it was announced today by Grant Leehouts, co-ordinator-producer of the Motion Picture Industry Film Project Committee. The title of this short is "The Screen Actor."

In one sequence, which was filmed at the Screen Actors Guild headquarters, the following personalities were photographed conducting Guild business: Walter Pidgeon, William Holden, Paul Harvey, Leon Ames, George Chandler, Dana Andrews, Robert Armstrong, Edward Arnold, Gertrude Astor, Louise Beavers, Macdonald Carey, Chick Chandler, Rosemary DeCamp, Dan Duryea, Glenn Ford, Virginia Grey, Van Heflin, Marjorie (Babe) Kane, Gene Kelly, Richard Lane, William Lundigan, Cliff Lyons, George Macready, Kermit Maynard, Agnes Moorehead, Moroni Olsen, Larry Parks, Jeffrey Sayre, Marshall Thompson, Regis Toomey and Ralph Byrd.

"The Screen Actor" is designed to give an honest portrayal of the activities of members of the Screen Actors Guild, professionally and as citizens of a solid community.

Gale Storm Signed

Gale Storm, formerly with Monogram, has been signed to a long-term contract at Universal-International. Her first role under the new pact will be the feminine lead opposite Donald O'Connor in "Curtain Call at Cactus Creek."

MGM Platter Deal

Quality Records of Toronto has entered into a deal to manufacture and distribute MGM platters in Canada.

Buckner Skeds Two War Criminal Pix

Robert Buckner, Universal-International producer, has completed development of two more stories to round out a trio on the big three war criminals which he started with "Rogue's Regiment," a story dealing with the prosecution of war criminals and the demise of Hitler.

The next to go before the cameras will be a story dealing with the last days of Mussolini. The picture will be titled "Dawn At Dongo," derived from the Italian town in which the dictator met his death.

The third picture in the war criminal series will be based on Tojo and will deal with intrigue in Japan prior to the atom bomb.

Fellow-irkers: Jerks who drive their autos alongside the exit doors of street cars, making the passengers squeeze through against the dirty outsides of both . . . **Harvey Harnick,** Columbia's sales manager, should be back about now from a couple of weeks of rest at Bernarr McFadden's Danville, NY, retreat . . . **Crackerjack comedienne:** Anna Russell. When you see her advertised locally, step in and get a load of laughs out of her clever humour . . . **Roses of Yesterday:** Owl lunch wagons.

Can any of my Quebec friends let me know whether there is a print of the French film, "Clochemerle," around? Although it is doing teriffic biz in France, the government of that country has asked that it not be exhibited in the USA. The novel, by Gabriel Chevalier, is about a citizen who builds a public urinal to commemorate his service as mayor. This leads to all kinds of complications, including riots which are ended by troops from Paris. It's a scream and I can imagine what the film is like.

Gotham Book Mart wants $50 for a deluxe set of Terry Ramsaye's "A Million and One Nights." Once I referred to it as "A Thousand and One Nights" and TR corrected me with: "I refuse to accept the depreciation" . . . **Out in the San Fernando Valley,** California, one Felix Jacoves will erect a pilot theatre, purposely small, made of prefabricated aluminum units. A number of well known film folk have their money invested in it . . . **In the Toronto Telegram** Thomas Richard Henry notes that a movie theatre advertises: "Ravaged Earth, Jungle Goddess, temptress of a thousand untamed men, ruler of a savage empire, we generate our own power."

Mickey Isman at a card game: "I don't mind losing but I can't stand the aggravation" . . . **Roy Tash** was busy taking pictures at the Pioneers' party — for bulletin boards in banks and postoffices, I suppose . . . **New York** just organized its first Variety tent. What a fine thing that will be for public service in that great city . . . **Not being a card player,** I just learned that many of that tribe refer to the Queen of Spades as "Dirty Maggie". . . **Our report here** last week about the legal tiff over "Sins of the Fathers" wasn't accurate, Larry Cromien of the other side tells me. We'll have a news story soon.

Maurice Rocco, the sensational piano performer, does his act standing up. When he arrived to play the Fiesta Room, he was taken to Heintzman's to try out several instruments. His playing enchanted the staff and customers. They listened. Suddenly one dear old lady, appalled by what she thought was a lack of consideration by the others, pushed a chair under Rocco, nearly causing him to topple backwards.

Prof. William E. Henry's report on audience reactions to films compared with those of critics didn't rest well with Phil M. Daley, the columnist of Film Daily of New York. The Prof said that criticism of motion pictures often reflects frustration on the part of the critics and that "very often the critics are merely talking to themselves." He admits that there are frustrated critics but points out that there are frustrated profs also. "But why, oh why, damn the critics en masse for the transgressions of the smart alecs?" he asks. He has a mighty strong point there. But read Henry's findings on Page 1.

Speaking of critics, the Globe and Mail has "Kathryn Adams" signed to its reviews these days. But the paper has lost some of its readability because of the absence of a movie column. Meanwhile the reviews, which aren't too bad, are appearing in the news columns under murderous heads.

Canadian Picture Pioneers membership total is now 518. The Toronto district leads with 230 and Quebec is next with 92. There are 16 CPP members in the USA . . . **Date fixed for** the Variety show at the Odeon-Toronto Theatre is March 15th, so keep it in mind. It will be the show of the year . . . **Breathes there a man** with soul so dead that he wasn't glad to see Doug Rosen back from Florida and in harness again?

Columbia's Heavy Reissue Program

Columbia currently has one of the heaviest re-release schedules in the company's history according to figures released in New York recently. Twenty-one top-flight productions from the past are already available to exhibitors with another 20 set for release in the coming months. All productions will be backed with a completely new advertising campaign consisting of a new line of accessories and press-books.

Among the films already in release are "Texas," "Arizona," "Golden Boy," "She Couldn't Take It," "Shut My Big Mouth," "Good Girls Go to Paris," "The Doctor Takes a Wife," "Let Us Live," "The Daring Young Man," "More Than a Secretary," "Lost Horizon," "Adam Had Four Sons," "Only Angels Have Wings," "Coast Guard," "Sahara," "Destroyer," "Flight Lieutenant," "One Night of Love," "It Happened One Night," "Commandos Strike at Dawn" and "49th Parallel."

Those which will be released by the company within the coming months include "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," "His Girl Friday," "Holiday," "Penny Serenade," "The Talk of the Town," "Pennies From Heaven," "You Can't Take It With You," "Three Yanks in Trinidad," "The More the Merrier," "Adventure in Manhattan," "Louisiana Hayride," "Kansas City Kitty," "Beware of Spooks," and "So You Won't Talk." In addition the company is readying a "horror" combination consisting of "The Boogey Man Will Get You" and "Return of the Vampire" and will release two action duos, "Dirigible" and "Submarine," and "Penitentiary" and "Women in Prison."

Tom Drake Added

Tom Drake will join Van Johnson, Gloria DeHaven and Donna Reed in "Scene of the Crime" at MGM. Roy Rowland will direct and Harry Rapf will produce.

Walter Pidgeon Cast

Walter Pidgeon will star in MGM's "Storm Over Vienna."

Canadian Fire Ass'n To Meet In Regina

The annual meeting and convention of the Association of Canadian Fire Marshals and the Dominion Fire Prevention Association will take place this year at the Hotel Saskatchewan in Regina from May 9th to 12th, according to an announcement from W. L. Clairmont, Dominion Fire Commissioner.

It is expected that several film men will attend.

Paramount's 'My Own True Love' Romantic Post-War Drama

STARRING Melvyn Douglas and Phyllis Calvert, Paramount's "My Own True Love" is a romantic melodrama set in London in the immediate period following the end of World War II. It deals with a rivalry between a father and his war-battered son for the love of a girl. The father and the girl are played by the two stars, with Philip Friend essaying the role of the son, and complications are overcome by the time the film has run its length. The son is completely rehabilitated and recovers from the wound he received in battle and the love problem is straightened out.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 14, No. 6 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

He Walked By Night

with Richard Basehart, Scott Brady.
International Film Distributors 79 Mins.

SKILLFUL IMAGINATIVELY HANDLED POLICE MELODRAMA HAS CLEVER PLOT DEVELOPMENT. AIMED FOR COPS-ROBBERS FANS, STANDS TO CLICK HEAVILY. RATES INTENSIVE EXPLOITATION.

A simple plot—the hunted and the hunters—has been enlarged into a skillfully and imaginatively handled melodrama in this production by Bryan Foy. It is a police case but mounts to a wild climax with greatly amplified effects that resound to a noisy conclusion.

Script based on an original by Crane Wilbur is resourceful and inventive. There are familiar elements true enough but when things really get hot for the hunted—in this case Richard Basehart—situations are cleverly planned and executed.

Where there is an audience that enjoys cops and robbers fare with all the stops pulled out for the utmost in action, suspense and lethal concluding fireworks which this time are staged in the storm sewer system which lies beneath Los Angeles, this then, is their ticket and the showman should go after the business with strong exploitation.

In straight documentary style the action content of "He Walked By Night" deals with the routine police work of the Los Angeles force in tracking down a killer—cop killer, at that—who is something of an amateur scientist and much more an elusive quarry.

For about 70 minutes of the running time Richard Basehart eludes pursuit but finally Scott Brady gets his cross bearings and the last few minutes of the script take place in the sewer system, a series of gunfights which result in the demise of Basehart. Alfred Werker directed. He applied a realistic hand for top effect.

CAST: Richard Baschart, Scott Brady, Roy Roberts, Whit Bissell, James Cordwell, Jack Webb.

CREDITS: A Bryan Foy Production; Producer, Robert T. Kane; Director, Alfred Werker; Screenplay, John C, Higgins, Crane Wilbur: Original story, Crane Wilbur; Photography, John Alton.

DIRECTION: Very good, PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

Stars Of WB Film

Jane Wyman and Dennis Morgan will star in Warners' "The Octopus and Miss Smith," to be directed by Michael Curtiz.

Whiplash

with Dane Clark, Alexis Smith, Zachary Scott, Eve Arden.
Warners 91 Mins.

INVENTIVE, WELL PLOTTED PRIZE-FIGHTING YARN SHOULD AGAIN DO THE TRICK WITH THE AUDIENCE THAT LIKES ITS FIGHTS ON FILM.

Fisticuffs on film detailing the prowess of various players in the cinematic squared circle are always fairly certain of attracting a substantial audience and there's no reason why "Whiplash" should not do the trick again. Here a wide assortment of punches are thrown by Dane Clark who plays "Mike Angelo," a monicker deriving from his skill with oil paints and canvas.

The fictional treatment of "Whiplash" is an inventive, well plotted job that is at creditable variance with other displays of the form. Kenneth Earl's story again has the prizefighter meet the lady. But it is via art that he does so and from that point his life becomes complicated by her husband. Moving its locales from coast to coast, the script has sound enough direction and performances in the right key.

Almost out on his feet from a terrific shellacking, Dane Cark relives his immediate past and via flashback the contributing course of events parades. Alexis Smith, running away from her invalided husband, Zachary Scott, who once almost hit the peak of pugilistic fame, buys a Clark original in S. Z. Sakall's cafe. This leads to a meeting with the artist, an affair, and then one of Scott's boys comes calling. Clark goes East after Miss Smith, meet her in Scott's place where she is a singer.

Clark is angered when he learns of Miss Smith's domestic attachment and takes Scott's offer for a buildup to the title since he is pretty good with his mitts himself. Jeffrey Lynn plays Miss Smith's boozing brother, a doctor, who feels the true state of affairs and goes over to Lynn's side. He is injured in the process, warned not to go on which might be fatal. This is Scott's plot but Lynn gets in on his plan which causes Scott's death and his own. Clark is saved. Last seen he is daubing away and Miss Smith comes on the scene. Lew Seiler directed.

CAST: Dane Clark, Alexis Smith, Zachary Scott, Eve Arden, Jeffrey Lynn, S. Z. Sakall, Alan Hale.

CREDITS: Producer, William Jacobs; Director, Lew Seiler; Screenplay, Maurice Geraghty, Harriet Frank, Jr.; Adaptation, Gordon Kahn; Story, Kenneth Earl; Photography, Peverell Marley.

DIRECTION: Able. PHOTOGRAPHY: Very Good.

So Dear to My Heart

with Burl Ives, Beulah Bondi, Harry Carey, Luana Patten, Bobby Driscoll.
(Technicolor)
RKO-Disney 82 Mins.

DISNEY HAS TURNED OUT ANOTHER ROUNDLY GOOD ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-IN-HEART AUDIENCE. RICH AND WARM, IT IS A CONSTANT, PLEASANT DELIGHT.

For the delectation of the younger audience element and no doubt also for the unconcealed delight of their elders but also young in heart, Walt Disney has again turned out a roundly good entertainment.

The story, simply a tale of a boy and his black lamb, is projected with the familiar but always clever and brightly new touches the Disney crew is noted for, threading into the normal photography fine bits of animation business. It is a constant and entirely pleasant spectacle.

Embellishing and embroidering the story by Sterling North, the screenplay details the imaginative childhood of Bobby Driscoll, grandson to Beulah Bondi, living on a small farm. He takes to a newborn black lamb, raises it until it becomes a troublesome fully grown ram.

He has all sorts of adventures with the animal. Luana Patten also figures in them. Many warmly-human sequences are worked over, bits of homely philosophy and advice injected until at length Miss Bondi gives permission to go to the country fair where the ram is entered in the livestock competition. Not being a pedigreed animal, the blue ribbon is awarded to another but Harry Carey saves the day for Bobby with a special award and the family comes home to Fulton Corners in triumph.

It is rich and warm. There are eight songs.

CAST: Burl Ives, Beulah Bondi, Harry Carey, Bobby Driscoll, Luana Patten, Raymond Bond, Walter Soderling, Matt Wills, Spelman B. Collins.

CREDITS: Director, Harold Schuster; Screenplay, John Tucker Battle; Adaptation, Maurice Rapf, Ted Sears; From the Sterling North story; Photography, Winton C. Hoch.

DIRECTION: Very good, PHOTOGRAPHY: Fine.

'Operation Malaya'

John Hodiak has been added to the cast of "Operation Malaya," starring Spencer Tracy, James Stewart and Sydney Greenstreet at MGM. Richard Thorpe is directing and Edwin Knopf producing.

The Gallant Blade

with Larry Parks, Marguerite Chapman
Columbia (Cinecolor) 81 Mins.

ACTION CONTENT SAVES THIS ONE. FOR THE CONDITIONED AUDIENCE THAT LIKES ITS COSTUMES, HISTORY, SWORDPLAY.

As The Greatest Swordsman in France of the mid-17th Century, Larry Parks gives vivid display of his prowess with a blade handed down to him by George Macready, a general, who has just come off one war only to be faced with the prospect of another due to the skullduggery of Victor Jory who plans the conquest of Spain.

It is politico-military intrigue among interesting Cinecolor sets.

Marguerite Chapman figures as a beauty who is in the employ of Jory because she can be useful in delaying tactics when he endeavors to put somebody on the spot. Set in France, every once in a while the players say "Oo la la" and "Au revoir." Then Edith King makes a crack about a polecat. Translate that into French.

Riding about the countryside, getting himself involved in fights here and there and eventually gunshot, Parks is taken in by the underground. Miss Chapman pulls a doublecross on Jory. Parks pulls a nifty switch, saves his commander, Macready, and is upped to colonel.

This is a pat job for the conditioned audience. Here they get the routine works against a costumed, historical background. Performances are routine. The action content saves it from getting thoroughly dull.

CAST: Larry Parks, Marguerite Chapman, Victor Jory, George Macready, Edith King, Michael Duane, Onslow Stevens,

CREDITS: Producer, Irving Starr; Director, Henry Levin; Screenplay, Walter Ferris, Morton Grant; From a story by Ted Thomas, Edward Dein; Photography, Burnett Guffey, Charles Lawton.

DIRECTION: Adequate, PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

Final Title Set

"Fighting Mike McCall" is the final title for Allied Artists' recently-completed film formerly titled, "Stampede."

Boris Karloff Cast

Boris Karloff has been signed by Universal-International to star with Abbott and Costello in "Abbott and Costello Meet the Killers."

3 Theatres Open, More In Work

(Continued from Page 1)

others were projected, two of the latter being drive-ins.

In Toronto, Odeon Theatres (Canada) Limited opened its 1,250-seat Odeon-Humber, the fifth new Odeon house in that city. Unusual feature of the theatre is the auditorium proper being situated below street level, with the loges being reached by a short flight of stairs from the foyer. Present policy is day-and-date with the Danforth, Hyland and Fairlawn.

The two other theatres to make their debut were also in Ontario. At Espanola, the KVP Company and W. J. McLaughlin premiered the 500-seat Espanola Theatre. The town has been without a showplace since the original Espanola burnt down early in the 1930s. The 760-seat Plaza in Oshawa was opened last week by K&W Theatres Limited, Odeon affiliate.

Both theatres which got under way are in Ontario. Douglas Wark's project in Uxbridge and the 400-seat Quonset in Nipigon are the two and both are the first for their respective locations.

The four theatres planned are all in British Columbia and include two drive-ins, a 500-car one for Penticton and Steel-Johnson's 1,300-car $125,000 open-air theatre in Burnaby; and two regular theatres, one, costing $38,700, at Chemainus and the other at Aldergrove. Penticton has one house in operation and Burnaby already has a drive-in operating, but the last two places have no theatres, although one was previously announced for Chemainus.

Mag Poll Claims UK Pix Gaining Here

The February issue of New Liberty magazine carries a survey conducted by the Elliott-Haynes organization, which shows British films have made a "great advance in Canada since 1945."

The question asked by the pollsters was "Which do you prefer—British or US movies."

The answer, it is claimed, is 47.8 for American movies, and 32.1 for those from Britain. The neutral percentage was 18.4 and 1.7 had no opinion. There were five categories of opinions and those printed here are the overall ones.

Cooper Buys Novel

Gary Cooper paid a reported $40,000 for the novel, "The Girl on the Via Flaminia," which he plans to produce and star in.

RENAISSANCE HAS NEW PLANS

Some sources of support for Canadian film production got wider attention when shareholders of Renaissance Films Distribution Inc., Montreal, arranged to have a bill presented to the Quebec Legislature which, if passed, would give them "the powers and rights necessary to follow up the objects of the company and to protect the interests of the preferred shareholders, especially the right to vote." They would be permitted to amend the company's charter along acceptable lines.

Among the petitioners for an amendment to the charter are Paul Pratt, financier, Longueuil; Leo Choquette, industrialist, Montreal; Charles Eugene Massicotte, dentist, Chicoutimi; Paul Henri Duval, industrialist, Montreal; Camille Ducharme, druggist, Berthier; Olivia Robitaille, merchant, Montreal; Henri Paul Lemay, advocate, Montreal; J. Maurice Blais, physician, Montreal, and Samuel Gagne, industrialist, Quebec City.

At a press conference Paul Pratt, who is mayor of Longueuil, revealed that the studio would embark on a program of religious and Christian propaganda films in French and English.

The delay to date, it was suggested, was due to J. A. DeSeve, founder of Renaissance and its former president, who was busy with his France-Film interests. He had returned to the management of that company some months ago, a move which grew out of the death of Alban Janin, its president. His inactivity led to his being ousted. To this publication he regretted not being able to make any statement at this time.

A statement was read from Leonard Fields and Joseph Than, whose Canadian International Screen Productions program of ten films for Mono-AA release had been called off for reasons beyond their control. They agreed to start production on four features in May.

Children's Pix Libr'y On Enduring Basis

(Continued from Page 1)

Circuits and associations have signified their willingness to play programs made up of approved films and it is expected that Independents and others not members of trade bodies will recognize the worth of the project.

The charge per reel will be one dollar. A booker will be appointed in each exchange centre and he will service the exhibitor with the films of every company. The exchanges, however, will bill the exhibitor direct.

Every endeavor is being made to place the project on a workable basis. While it will be in operation almost immediately, the maximum of efficiency cannot be reached for several weeks yet. The reason is that the project will be placed in the hands of Fred C. Dillon, new executive director of the Association, and he does not take office until March 1st. He will organize the mechanics of the plan in the various exchanges.

One print each of some 200 non-current features has been placed in strategically located cities and towns across Canada. These films have proven to be highly entertaining, as well as suitable, for children. From time to time these will be augmented by specially selected pictures from the latest releases.

The new films to be added to the Library will be chosen by means of the "wiggle test." In this method a group of children attend a screening and their actions are observed. If they wiggle around it shows that the sequences they are seeing does not interest them. If they are absorbed they sit on the edge of their seats. In charge of this idea was Marjorie Dawson, chairman of the MPAA's National Children's Film Library Committee, who helped get the library started in Canada and instructed local women in the use of the test.

The Library will supply exhibitors with films for Saturday matinee shows, to be used in place of the regularly-scheduled programs, many of which are considered unsuitable for juveniles.

Another aim of the Library is to make it possible for the present generation of children to see some of the ageless stories that made other generations of children happy. They include such films as "Alice in Wonderland," "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," "Young Buffalo Bill," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," etc.

Alterations Started

Alterations and improvements to Famous Players' Columbia Theatre in Vancouver have been started. Work at present deals mainly with rest rooms, foyer, marquee and signs, but further renovations, including new seats, will be undertaken later.

Patrons, Critics Pix Tastes Differ

(Continued from Page 1)

Previewing Committee of the Motion Picture Association of America. He discussed basic research into audience reaction as applied to motion pictures.

"Very often the critics are merely talking to themselves. Criticism of the motion picture frequently reflects frustration on the part of the individual who criticizes," Dr. Henry declared. "More valid criticism comes from the audiences as they register their preference by attending or staying away from the theatre. The audiences are not reacting only in terms of the social acceptability of the picture; they are reacting in terms of their own basic human interest.

"In the past great pictures have been made by creative artists who have utilized intuitively these basic human appeals. Audiences of all ages supported these films.

"Their symbols were warm and moving in human terms. Their appeal had no age limit.

"Modern research into human relationships opens up a rich vein of material which the writer and producer can use in the making of pictures with greater boxoffice appeal. Potential audiences in the older age range can be lured back into the theatre if the facts of this research were used.

"It is frequently said that if motion pictures are made for mass audience taste, great pictures will not be made.

"This is false to fact. Great pictures have been popular pictures. What we need is more insight into the depth and range of mass audience taste. Such knowledge now exists ready to hand for the creative artist, as he makes the great pictures of today and tomorrow."

SRO Staffs Dropped

All personnel of Canadian SRO offices, with the exception of Toronto, have been let go. Joe Marks, g.m., is away to Hollywood and NY confabs.

Cast In 'Virgin Bar'

Gregory Peck will star in Fox' "Virgin Bar."

Lana Turner Film

Lana Turner, inactive since her marriage in April, will next star in MGM's "The Reformer and the Redhead," scheduled to go into production in the summer.

'Blank Wall' Deal

Walter Wanger is negotiating with Columbia for the production and release of "Blank Wall," which will star Joan Bennett and James Mason.

YOU CAN'T WIN ON HALF A HORSE

Statistically Speaking—
When you date a feature with the "J. ARTHUR RANK PRESENTS . . ." trade mark you have 28.4% MORE pre-sold customers than in 1948

Percentage of Canadians, by Independent Scientific Surveys With Stated "Entertainment Preference" for British Films.

1948	**25 %**	(Gallup Poll)
1949	**32.1%**	(Elliott Haynes Survey for Liberty Magazine).

% Increase in 12-Month Period — 28.4

This percentage does not include customers who like British films but do not separate British-made pictures from others in reporting preferences.

FOOTNOTE: For readers of Motion Picture Herald, Jan. 22nd issue, which queried "statements by Frank Fisher, general manager of Eagle-Lion in Canada that the best type of film programming is a choice blending of British and American pictures."

WHEN YOU PLAY U.S. AND BRITISH PRODUCT

THE PRE-SOLD POTENTIAL DRAW IS 79.9%

P.S. SEE PAGE 33 "NEW LIBERTY" MAGAZINE, FEBRUARY ISSUE.

THERE HAVE BEEN FEW GREAT PICTURES LIKE
1938
"My Brother Jonathan"
1939
THE CITADEL
GOODBYE MR. CHIPS
1941
HOW GREEN WAS MY VALLEY
1949
"My Brother Jonathan"
FROM A NOVEL BY FRANCIS BRETT YOUNG
Rarely does a motion picture reach such magnificent heights as "MY BROTHER JONATHAN" which, in the tradition of "Goodbye Mr. Chips", "The Citadel" and "How Green Was My Valley", is a love story of majestic beauty, so poignant that its greatness transcends all!
STARRING
MICHAEL DENISON
SENSATIONAL NEW BRITISH STAR
Dulcie GRAY • Ronald HOWARD
STAR OF "MADONNA OF THE SEVEN MOONS"
SON OF THE IMMORTAL LESLIE HOWARD
Stephen MURRAY
and Introducing
BEATRICE CAMPBELL
A PATHE (British) PICTURE released thru INTERNATIONAL FILM DISTRIBUTORS

THIRD
ON THE OFFICIAL LIST OF 1948
TOP GROSSERS IN GREAT BRITAIN

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Downtown-Glendale-Scarboro-State, Toronto

For Better Boxoffice Product It's... International
FILM DISTRIBUTORS LIMITED